

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 7 has been amended to change the reference character "D" to "100" so as to better accord with the other drawings and the specification.

Submitted herewith are a corrected sheet of formal drawing which incorporates the amendment and an annotated sheet showing the change made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claim 5 and subject matter previously recited in claim 8 to clarify that the recording medium has a predetermined print thereon that is pre-printed by a manufacturer of the recording medium, and to clarify that the aligning member comprises an indicator as a reference of a position and a direction of the printing area of the printing means, wherein when the aligning member is at the aligning position, the

indicator is adapted to be aligned with the predetermined print on the recording medium so as to align a desired area to be printed on the recording medium with the position and direction of the printing area of the printing means.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of from (now canceled) claim 5.

Moreover, the claims have been amended to remove the reference numerals, as required by the Examiner, and to make some minor clarifying amendments so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,927,208 ("Hagstrom et al"), and claims 4 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Hagstrom et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a printer is provided which comprises supporting means (3) for supporting a recording medium (100), which is adapted to record data and which has a predetermined

print (L) thereon that is pre-printed by a manufacturer of the recording medium. The supporting means includes a setting area (6) at which the recording medium supported by the supporting means is set, and the supporting means is movable between a print position at which printing on the recording medium set at the setting area is possible and a setting/removing position at which the recording medium is settable on and removable from the supporting means.

Moreover, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, the printer comprises printing means (35) for printing in a printing area on the recording medium set in the setting area of the supporting means when the supporting means is at the print position.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, the printer comprises an aligning member (13) that is movable between an aligning position at which the aligning member partially overlaps with the setting area, and does not overlap at least with the printing area of the printing means, and a retracted position to which the aligning member is retracted from the setting area.

As recited in amended independent claim 1, the aligning member comprises an indicator (25) as a reference of a position and a direction of the printing area of the printing means, and when the aligning member is at the aligning position, the

indicator is adapted to be aligned with the predetermined print on the recording medium so as to align a desired area to be printed on the recording medium with the position and direction of the printing area of the printing means.

And finally, as recited in amended independent claim 1, the aligning member moves with respect to the supporting means from the aligning position to the retracted position when the supporting means moves from the print position to the setting/removing position, and the aligning member is movable from the retracted position to the aligning position when the supporting means is positioned at the settable/removable position.

Thus, with the structure of the claimed present invention, by aligning the recording medium (100) using the indicator (25) on the aligning member (13) and the predetermined print (L) on the recording medium, the position and direction of the print on the recording medium by the printing means can be established at an appropriate position and direction with respect to the predetermined print.

Moreover, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, when the supporting means is positioned at the setting/removing position, the aligning member is movable from the retracted position to the aligning position where the aligning member partially overlaps the setting

area of the supporting means. With this structure, the recording medium that has been set in the setting area to be printed on can be aligned with the supporting means at the setting/removing position and with the aligning member at the aligning position.

Still further, with the structure recited in amended independent claim 1, the aligning member moves with respect to the supporting means from the aligning position to the retracted position when the supporting means moves from the print position to the setting/removing position. Thus, when printing is finished and the supporting means is moved to the setting/removing position to allow the recording medium to be removed from the printer, the aligning member is positioned at the retracted position to allow easy removal of the recording medium that has been printed on, and to allow the next recording medium to be printed on to be easily placed at the setting area of the supporting means.

By contrast, Hagstrom et al merely discloses a technique for centering a CD with the center of a printing program. That is, Hagstrom et al discloses a technique of obtaining a shift amount from the center of the CD to the center of the printing program in order to label print on the CD by matching the center of the CD with the center of the printing program by adjusting a position of a print head and a tray holding a CD based on the shift amount.

The Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action that the lever 26 of Hagstrom et al corresponds to the aligning member of the present invention. According to Hagstrom et al, the lever 26 engages the edge of the CD 22 so that the CD is held in the depression 20 at three points around its periphery. Hagstrom et al also discloses that the lever 26 releases the CD when the tray 18 is opened fully.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Hagstrom et al merely discloses that the lever 26 contacts an edge of a CD. And it is respectfully submitted that Hagstrom et al does not disclose, teach or suggest that the lever 26 comprises an indicator as a reference of a position and a direction of the printing area of the printing means, wherein when the aligning member is at the aligning position, the indicator is adapted to be aligned with the predetermined print on the recording medium so as to align a desired area to be printed on the recording medium with the position and direction of the printing area of the printing means.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that Hagstrom et al merely discloses that the lever 26 releases the CD when the tray is fully opened. Hagstrom et al does not, however, disclose, teach or suggest that the lever 26 is movable from a retracted position to an aligning position when the tray is opened.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Hagstrom et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 whereby the aligning member comprises an indicator as a reference of a position and a direction of the printing area of the printing means, wherein when the aligning member is at the aligning position, the indicator is adapted to be aligned with the predetermined print on the recording medium so as to align a desired area to be printed on the recording medium with the position and direction of the printing area of the printing means. And it is respectfully submitted that Hagstrom et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 whereby the aligning member moves with respect to the supporting means from the aligning position to the retracted position when the supporting means moves from the print position to the setting/removing position, and the aligning member is movable from the retracted position to the aligning position when the supporting means is positioned at the settable/removable position.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Hagstrom et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 and 6-10 depending therefrom all clearly patentably distinguish over Hagstrom et al under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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